

Having you in the hereafter

Scenario_part 4 Rethinking the experience of the cementary

Cementary should be meant to keep a physical connection between the dead person and the living ones. It should be a place where people could experience their mourning and slowly overcome it, confronting each time with the limitedness of man. The cementary is the place where individual mourning takes place in a collective architecture, but actually this monumentality doesn't create any deep link to the Hereafter.

The smart dust could provide the physical and spiritual space for the worship of defuncts. It could really links us again to the physicality of our beloved and could offer us comfort through the praying we are used to do to recover from our sadness.

The cementary that could come out of smart dust technology is a therapeutic one, meant to treat mourning depression by the feedback of a smart rosary that receives the information on the decomposition level of the dead body. The smart rosary will replace the traditional tool of praying in catholic religion, but in the same time it consists of an adhesive bracelet bandage (like the common medical ones with gel inside) that releases serotonin (the neurotransmitter used in the treatment of depression illnesses) according to the level of decomposition of the body. The less decomposed, the more serotonin you get. Actually the human mourning period is deeply related

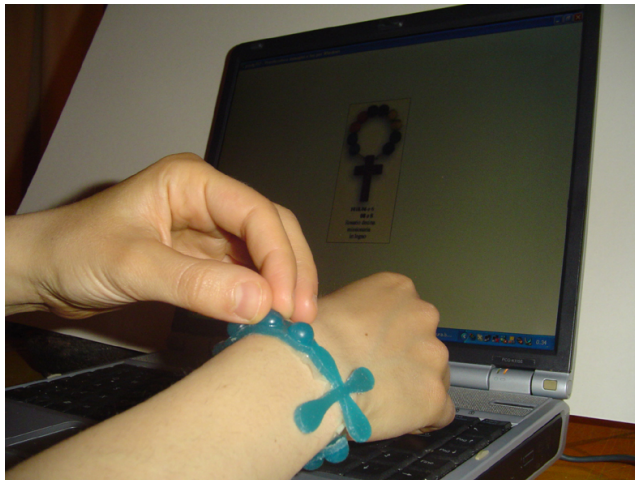
to the period of decomposition of the dead body, as reported in the thanatology work of Edgar Morin “Man and Death”.

The way the smart rosary is meant to be used is a kind of translation of catholic religious habits into the next smart dust future. The rosary has always been a tool to get closer to the spiritual dimension and usually catholics say the rosary sitting around the dead body of the person the day before the funeral. So, I thought that my smart rosary could work in 2 different ways according to the effort we take to get closer to our defunts: we can pray them visiting their grave physically or by ourselves, being far away from the place they are buried. So, if we physically go to the cemetery, the bandage-rosary automatically starts to release the right amount of serotonin since it is the visit itself and the prayers we say on the grave that should make us feel closer to our dead beloved. Instead, if we are far away from the grave, we will need a virtual cemetery in the internet. I think it like a server that could receive the decomposition data from the smart dust in the dead body and that could help us saying the rosary online. In this case we will use the bandage-rosary in the traditional way, such as pressing the little balls to follow the structure of the pray. If we press them, the bandage will start to release serotonin according to the level of decomposition detected from the smart dust.

This hypothesis of cemetery came out of the aim to combine religious habits with technology, psychological comfort to physical treatment, our need to keep a physical connection with dead person even if their body is slowly decomposing.

Some people say that they would like to keep both a genetic, biological memento of dead person and also that they would like to perceive that their beloved person still could have a kind of influence on their mood in daily life. Smart dust-based cemetery is actually meant to transform a genetical memento into data that influence physically the mood of the people, giving them the





gift of comfort through spiritual interaction (praying) and physical one (differentiated level of serotonin according to decomposition).





Key worlds

Scenario_part 4 Rethinking the experience of the cementary

Future directions_interactions between living people and dead ones

Building my world around_smart serotonin band, internet

Who_relatives and close friends of the dead people, dead people

Why_to establish a physical connection with the defunt that could still interfere with the psychology and the mood of the living ones.

By what_smart dust sensors network, smart serotonin band, internet